

2-14-2008

UA12/2/1 College Heights Herald, Vol. 83, No. 33

WKU Student Affairs

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WKU Student Affairs, "UA12/2/1 College Heights Herald, Vol. 83, No. 33" (2008). *WKU Archives Records*. Paper 6682.
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49°/38°

FRIDAY

40°/27°

SATURDAY

42°/35°

SUNDAY

51°/30°

MONDAY

30°/22°

COLLEGE HEIGHTS

HERALD

Thursday, February 14, 2008
Volume 83, Number 33
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky
www.wkuherald.com



Rand Paul

EVAN SISLEY/HERALD

for Ron Paul Grassroots are Bowling Green

GREG CAPILLO
Herald reporter

On Friday, local opthamologist Rand Paul watched his 8-year-old son William sink two free throws. His wife Kelley couldn’t believe she missed it.

Last week, Rand Paul had to miss his 11-year-old-son Duncan’s basketball game. So Kelley took over his coaching duties.

Rand Paul had to be in Montana to campaign for his father, presidential candidate Ron Paul.

Rand Paul’s father often takes positions that marginalize him among the other candidates during the debates, in which they would often unite against him.

But at Western, and in Bowling Green, support is evident in the signs and stickers that are sprinkled through the city.

Ron Paul advocates returning the country to a strict interpretation of the Constitution, which he said involves abolishing income tax as well as only using military force after a Congressional declaration of war.

He advocates immediate, staggered withdraw from Iraq and was one of the few Congress members who voted against invading in 2003.

Fox News didn’t let him debate on the channel.

Ron Paul also rarely gets more than 15 percent of the vote in any primary.

Rand Paul, who shares his father’s political beliefs, attributed this to a lack of media coverage.

Without mainstream media attention, some supporters can get demoralized, he said.

“Media has the ability to give people win-ability or believability,” he said.

Rand Paul said the message might still be popular, just not with Republican primary voters.

Both Rand Paul and Ron Paul have said that the campaign won’t continue without the Republican nomination.

But Rand Paul emphasized the importance of persevering.

SEE GRASSROOTS, PAGE 7

Legislators look at raising revenue

Governor to make gambling proposal today

MARIANNA HALE
Herald reporter

State budget cuts continue to hurt higher education, but a bill increasing the tobacco tax and the governor’s expanded gaming plan could create revenue to compensate for the cuts.

Rep. David Watkins, D-Henderson, proposed House Bill 443, which if passed, will raise the cigarette tax from 30 cents to \$1.

Gov. Steve Beshear ordered a 3 percent cut to postsecondary education and proposed an additional 12 percent cut to be approved by the General

Assembly by the end of session in March.

It’s estimated that the tax would raise \$205 million, Watkins said.

Watkins said he is unsure how much tobacco tax revenue would go to higher education, but he thinks areas hurt the most by budget cuts would receive the most amount of money.

Watkins said he originally wanted to increase the tax to lower teenage smoking rates, but he also realized the raised tax could be used to offset the budget shortfall.

Tobacco tax revenue could also be used for education, early childhood development and health and welfare, according to the bill.

A raised tobacco tax would result in healthier kids and fewer cuts to higher education, he said.

President Gary Ransdell said he supports the tax.

“Anything that improves

health and reduces Medicaid costs, we as educators should support,” Ransdell said.

But Beshear said in his State of the Commonwealth address in January that increasing taxes is a last resort as long as he’s Governor.

He instead proposes expanded gaming as a source of revenue.

Beshear said in his budget address in January that he would submit a constitutional amendment to the General Assembly that would let Kentuckians vote on allowing limited expanded gaming in the state.

Beshear’s amendment proposal will be released today.

The governor hasn’t discussed casino gambling as a source of revenue with any college presidents, Ransdell said.

The General Assembly will decide whether to put the casino gambling amendment on the fall ballot, Rep. Rick Nelson, D-Middlesboro, said.

SEE REVENUE, PAGE 9

Departments deal with budget cuts

HOLLY BROWN
Herald reporter

A week after the first 3 percent budget cut, effects on most departments are subtle.

Brad Wheeler, budgets and resources manager for Student Affairs and Campus Services, said the worst is yet to come.

Most of the cut to this fiscal year came from pre-existing funds and utilities rather than departments, he said.

The goal is to make cuts in such a way that the people in various departments don’t feel the effect, Wheeler said.

An example, Wheeler said, is turning the lights off in a building during the night when it’s empty.

Less than 1 percent of the current 3 percent cut came from departments.

“There’s not a significant impact at this point, but individuals are planning for what’s to come,” Wheeler said. “The effect of recurring (cuts) is much greater.”

Nearly half of the cuts for the new fiscal year beginning July 1 will come from department budgets if the cut stays at 3 percent.

Western could be dealing with a greater cut of up to 15 percent.

For Student Affairs, that will mean the difference between an \$80,000 cut and a \$500,000 cut, Wheeler said.

Most departments report current cuts in daily operating costs, postponed hiring for vacant positions, travel expenses and holds on projects that had been budgeted for.

Although departments have turned in plans for reductions, nothing is concrete, Wheeler said. Departments hope position eliminations can come from vacant positions.

Provost Barbara Burch said the eight vacant positions in Academic Affairs may need to be filled, but it’s a better option than firing existing employees.

“No one is losing their job over this,” Burch said.

Donetta Hodges, budgets and resources manager for Information Technology, said the \$38,500 cut from IT caused them to hold expanding a multimedia software project used for online classes and Blackboard.

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 9



2DAY

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats.

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2					7	5		
	8		1		5	6		

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►CRIME REPORTS

Reports

Shateka Caruthers, Bemis Lawrence Hall, reported on Feb. 11 textbooks stolen from her dorm room. Total value of the theft was \$136.75.

Caruthers also reported on Feb.11 fraudulent use of her debit card in the amount of \$65.58.

►NEWS BRIEFS

‘The Real World’ seeks new faces

Seven lucky people will get the opportunity to live, work and play together when MTV chooses cast members to be a part of their hit show “The Real World,” season 21.

The show, which is the longest running show in MTV’s history, will have an open casting call at Main Street Live in Lexington from 10 a.m to 5 p.m. Saturday

Applicants should be between the ages of 18 and 24 with a valid form of identification and a recent picture of themselves that won’t be returned.

Any applicants who show a valid military ID at the casting call will be entitled to a “VIP Pass” allowing them to skip the line and go directly to the first available group casting interview.

“The Real World” is best known for its past seasons filled with cast members from diverse backgrounds that shared their daily experiences and great personalities with millions of viewers.

Casting director Damon Furberg said the show is a great way for people to broaden their horizons and gain valuable experiences.

“Everyone has their own reason for wanting to be on the show,” Furberg said. “But typically they are looking to grow up, have fun and start a new chapter in their lives.”

Furberg said that different kinds of people are what make the show interesting, but it does help having a unique trait or background.

“We are looking for people that have a story to tell, that have a lot of charisma, that are outgoing and that don’t censor themselves just because they are on television,” he said. “After 21 seasons, it’s hard to find those people, but they are out there, and we are going to use every minute of the time we have to find them.”

— Alex Booze



WHAT’S GOING ON?

The calendar runs every Tuesday. Send your event post request by 3 p.m. Monday to calendar@chherald.com.

THURSDAY, FEB. 14

- Softball at Arizona State, 6 p.m.
- Student Seminar, 8:30 a.m., Ag Expo Center
- Women’s Basketball vs. Troy, 7 p.m., Diddle Arena

FRIDAY, FEB. 15

- Guest vibraphonist, Jerry Tachoir, free recital, 7:30 p.m., fine arts center recital hall
- Ky State Holstein Sale, 10 a.m., Ag Expo Center
- Softball vs. Oregon State, 1:45 p.m., Tempe, Arizona

SATURDAY, FEB. 16

- 2008 Wedding Celebration, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Carroll Knicely Conference Center
- Hip Hop Party by Horeman Entertainment, Time: TBA, Garrett Ballroom
- KAEOPP TRIO Day, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., DUC
- KAPOS State At-Large Cheerleading Competition, 8 a.m., Diddle Arena
- Ky State Holstein Sale, 10 a.m., Ag Expo Center
- Men’s Basketball at Middle Tennessee, 3 p.m., Murfreesboro, Tenn.
- Men’s Tennis vs. Austin Peay, 6 p.m., University Tennis Courts
- Softball vs. Notre Dame, 4:40 p.m., Tempe, Arizona
- Softball vs. Southern Utah, 12:30 p.m., Tempe, Arizona
- Valentine Pageant, 2 p.m.- 7 p.m., Van Meter Hall
- Women’s Tennis vs. Lipscomb, 1 p.m., Total Fitness Connection

SUNDAY, FEB. 17

- SKTPA, 10:30 a.m., Ag Expo Center
- Softball vs. Texas Tech, 11 a.m., Tempe, Arizona
- WKU Faculty Member, Michele Fiala, oboe recital, free, 3 p.m., fine arts center recital hall
- Women’s Basketball at Middle Tennessee, 2 p.m., Murfreesboro, Tenn.

TUESDAY, FEB. 19

- Kayak Roll Clinic, 6 p.m.- 9 p.m., Preston Center
- SGA Student Senate, 5 p.m., DUC 305

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20

- Women’s Basketball vs. South Alabama, 7 p.m., Diddle Arena

THURSDAY, FEB. 21

- BGWSO Sweethearts Concert, 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, Downtown Bowling Green
- Hay Baler Demo, 6 p.m., Ag Expo Center
- Men’s Basketball vs. South Alabama, 7 p.m., Diddle Arena

FRIDAY, FEB. 22

- Baseball vs. Bowling Green State, 3 p.m., Western
- Softball vs. Mercer, 1 p.m., Macon, Georgia
- Softball vs. Mississippi State, 10 a.m., Macon, Georgia
- Women’s Tennis at Austin Peay, noon



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CAMPUS LIFE

Local author hosts writing workshop

ERIC ISBELL
Herald reporter

On Tuesday, the conference room at Helm Library was arranged in a different formation. Rather than randomly being scattered around the room, the tables were positioned in the center, where they were in a horseshoe formation.

There, amateur writers were sitting, adamant to learn the craft held by the greats: Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner and T.S. Eliot.

Standing in the middle facing them from her podium, local author Jennie Brown was enlightening the writers on the art of rhetoric.

Brown, former instructor of English composition at South Campus, said writing is a craft.

“You can teach it, or you can do it, and I chose to do it,” she said.

The workshop, which was the second of four being pre-

sented by the university libraries, dealt with helping writers focus on significant moments in life.

The authors who showed up were given a writing exercise to do. They were told to think of a moment in their lives, in a different time and write it. The authors also had the opportunity to bring in a picture to showcase that moment.

From there, Brown helped the writers weave those moments into a narrative form that was compelling, informative and contemporary.

Some of the stories were humor tales, such as how it took a boy years to get a name. Others were more reminiscent tales, in which the writers thought about a special time in their lives that achievement occurred.

Diana McQuady, the writer in residence at the libraries, said this was the first time an event like this has happened.

She said the university libraries would like to continue doing these kinds of workshops in the future.

The workshop is a way to offer some opportunities to the writers in the community, she said. It includes everyone, not just students.

Dorsey Grice, a retired psychology professor, was one of the participants in the workshop.

Grice, an amateur writer for many years, said he recently gained inspiration to take on a larger project this past spring at a workshop.

“I’ve mainly written poetry and short fiction, but this is my first novel,” he said. Grice said it’s an extra thing he’s doing.

He said he was never intrigued by the concept of publishing, but he’s hoping his novel gets accepted.

The writers’ workshop meets at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday in February in room 100 of Helm.

Reach Eric Isbell
at diversions@chherald.com

“You can teach it, or you can do it, and I chose to do it.”

— Jennie Brown
Local author

POLICE

Campus campaign designed to reward designated drivers

LARRY ROWELL
Herald reporter

Designated drivers on campus who are a little bit naughty may discover that campus police will be a little bit nice.

In an effort to stem the rising tide of arrests on charges of driving under the influence, campus police began an anti-DUI campaign Thursday, said Cpl. David Skinner, a patrol officer who proposed the campaign.

When pulled over for minor traffic violations, sober designated drivers will receive a \$10 gift certificate to Buffalo Wild Wings Grill & Bar instead of getting a ticket.

What constitutes a minor traffic violation is left up to the officer making the stop.

Not using a turn signal or rolling through a stop sign could be considered minor if no one is in danger, Skinner said.

“However, if a designated driver blatantly blows through a red light, you’re going to get a ticket,” he said.

Elizabethtown junior Phillip Felli said he thinks the campaign is cool.

“It’ll give me a reason to be a designated driver,” Felli said. Morgantown freshman Clint Beasley said he thinks the campaign is a dumb idea that goes against what police stand for: upholding the law.

Skinner said the number of DUI arrests made by campus police has risen sharply during the past three years.

There were 89 DUI arrests in 2005, 158 in 2006 and 204 last year.

Skinner attributes the rise in arrests to the aggressiveness of campus police.

“We have a bunch of young officers who really get after intoxicated drivers,” he said.

Campus police purchased

the gift cards with a \$500 donation from the local Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant and \$500 from the Student Government Association.

Buffalo Wild Wings manager Dave Taylor said the campaign is a way to reward responsible drivers.

Buffalo Wild Wings will also give a free meal to the designated driver of a large group at the restaurant, Taylor said.

Skinner said he advises students to drink responsibly, even with a designated driver.

“An intoxicated passenger in a vehicle could still be arrested for alcohol intoxication in a public place,” Skinner said.

Reach Larry Rowell
at news@chherald.com

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TOPS to men's basketball having a 10-game winning streak. Congrats on last night's 92-57 win over Troy.

BOTTOMS to the fans not showing up to last night's basketball game. A win like that deserves support.

TOPS to the men's soccer team giving Athletic Director Wood Selig the cold shoulder.

BOTTOMS to the fact that the cold shoulder won't bring the team back.

TOPS to spreading the love on Valentine's Day.

BOTTOMS to sickeningly cute couples who make us want to vomit. You know who you are.

TOPS to Ron Paul's son living in Bowling Green. It's nice to have a local connection to the presidential race.

BOTTOMS to golf umbrellas on campus. Those things are way too big.

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1. Letters should not exceed 250 words, and commentaries should be 700-800 words.
2. Originality counts. Please don't submit plagiarized work.
3. For verification, letters and commentaries MUST include your name, phone number, home town and classification or title.
4. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.
5. The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters for style, grammar, length and clarity. The Herald does NOT print libelous submissions.

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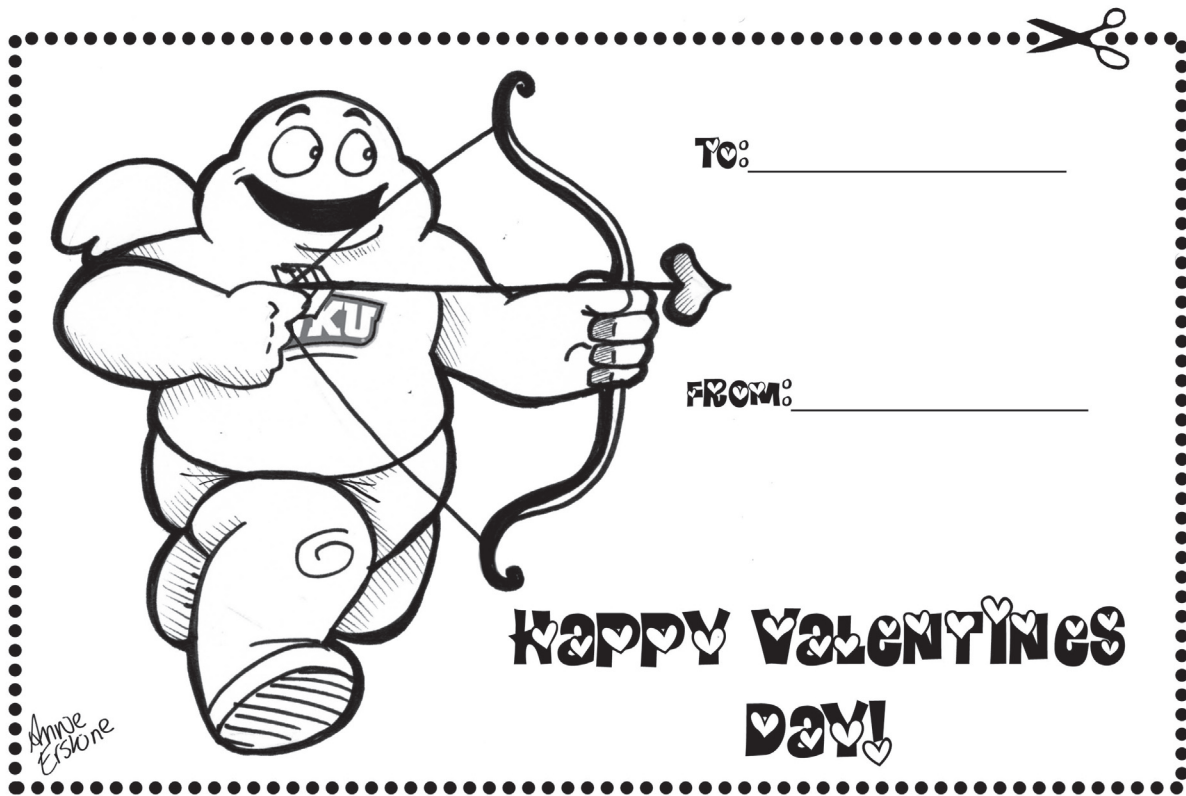
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OPINION

Thursday, February 14, 2008
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky

www.wkuherald.com

STAFF EDITORIAL



Bah, lovebug

We're Valentine's Scrooges, but we love you

Here at the Herald, most of us aren't too down with Valentine's Day. We see it for the corporate holiday that it is. According to Hallmark, "Approximately 190 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged industry-wide (not including packaged kids' valentines for classroom exchanges).

Maybe this disdain for Cupid generates from the questioning of the status quo that lies within every journalist. Or maybe it's because six of the 10 members of the editorial board are not currently dating anyone. But even those of us who are in a relationship agree this holiday is lame.

Every aspect of Valentine's Day is depressing. We're all poor college students who really shouldn't be spending more money on our valentines just because it's the popular thing to do. Those of us who are single can't help but feel low when we walk past sickeningly cute couples walking hand in hand down the Centennial Mall.

Even the story of Saint Valentine is depressing. The most popular of which is that Valentine was a clergyman who was put to death for secretly marrying couples in ancient Rome. I wonder if the color red on Valentine's Day stems from the blood that was shed – probably not.

American history has its own bloody V-day story. On Feb. 14, 1929 seven members of the North Side Irish-German gang led by Bugs Moran were gunned

down by Al Capone's South Side Italians. This shooting is remembered as the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre.

Journalists don't really have the best record with dating. We pretty much give up "normal" relationships so we can be married to the job and devote our lives to our stories and our readers. So in some ways you, Western, are our valentines. Now we have had our ups and our downs. We are the type of boyfriend who will look at you right in the eyes when you ask us, "Does my butt look big in this skirt?" and fire back with the brutally honest reply, "Massive."

This doesn't mean we are insensitive. We just value the truth no matter how hard it may be to hear. And in our relationship we have definitely dished out our fair share of honest feedback.

Despite all the straight talk, we love you, baby. We really mean it. And we don't mean just on Valentine's Day. We mean every day. We love you in thick and thin. In wealth and budget cuts. It is you and our passion for keeping you informed that are the reasons why we spend most nights in meetings discussing what we can deliver to you every Tuesday and Thursday morning.

Happy Valentine's Day – even though most of us hate it.

This editorial represents the majority opinion of the Herald's 10-member editorial board.

COMMENTARY

SGA wants you in Frankfort

JEANNE JOHNSON
& KEVIN SMILEY

Do you want to be the only person in class next Wednesday, or do you want to be exercising your right to protest in Frankfort?

Despite Gov. Steve Beshear's previous statements reported by the Herald in October, "The state government needs to provide more and better funding to universities so college is more affordable and for Kentucky to double its number of bachelor's degrees by 2020," 3 percent budget cuts have already been enacted for the university, and 12 percent more is possible.

The state sure has a way of twisting "more and better."

Now the governor is proposing a total 15 percent budget cut for higher education. The Student Government Association is combating this devastating proposal through our Listen Up Legislators drive and rally in Frankfort.

A lack of funding from the state forces Western to compensate for lost revenue through tuition increases. The governor's proposed budget also calls for a 16.8 percent reduction in Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) money. Decreasing our university's budget so dramatically will limit enrollment, increase class size and limit student extracurricular activities. Essentially, students will be paying higher tuition, with less KEES support, for limited opportunities in a lower quality education.

If the cut of the men's soccer program, hiring freezes on necessary positions, decreased student work hours and the fact that students are getting punched in the gut three different ways seems unjust, then it is time for students to do something about it!

We know that you care. Let us do everything we can to help you spread the message and succeed in fighting budget cuts.

Today, SGA will be set up in Downing University Center with cell phones and letters for you to contact your legislator in our annual Listen Up Legislators drive. We will also be carrying around the Listen Up Legislator information all day long, and can easily be spotted in our SGA garb. To experience the changes you wish to see, stop by DUC or grab an SGA member. Let your legislators know how you feel about budget cuts.

Next Wednesday, we will be going to Frankfort for a rally with the other state universities. Two buses will be chartered and the provost is strongly supporting this event, asking faculty members to excuse students' absences. Send an e-mail to sga@wku.edu, sign up at Listen Up Legislators, or come by the SGA office (DUC 130) to get involved. We will leave Wednesday morning at 7 a.m. from DUC. Please wear Western attire, and don't forget your red towel. Frankfort needs to hear students and this is a great opportunity for you to express your opinion.

The opinions expressed in this commentary do not reflect those of the Herald or the university.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Traditional Respect

On Feb. 8, I attended a fraternal ceremony and social event at Garrett Conference Center. Upon entering the facility, I went through a body search for weapons. The security confiscated my Swiss Army Knife. This is the knife that old school people like me carry. I asked them what had occurred for me, a fraternity member, to be treated so roughly? The explanation was that during another fraternal event the previous week there were problems with security violations.

I have four children. So I agree with whatever needs to be done to keep students in a safe environment, especially

in these times of unnecessary violence.

With Western's fraternities and sororities, it has always been a tradition to lead the students with great social events. But this weekend's events were a bit much for anyone who has not been subjugated to improper enforcement of law.

With most campus events, you always have visitors from other campuses and young people of Bowling Green.

The security was in high gear, with full-body searches of male and female students all in single file with whistles blaring to get in line. There was a female security guard present, but the male security guards were checking the female students. With more than 400

students trying to attend a \$10 function, entering the event was awful.

Western has always been a very social campus, and I know there is a need for security and the prayers of parents for the safety of all students. I asked a security leader why male security guards were allowed to body check female students. He replied that they could as long as they used the back of their hands and the search was conducted in front of other officers.

All these extra security measures were OK, because they extracted at least three individuals out in handcuffs. But the sour point with me, and some visiting parents, was the female body

searches. It raised the question, will this happen at all campus events?

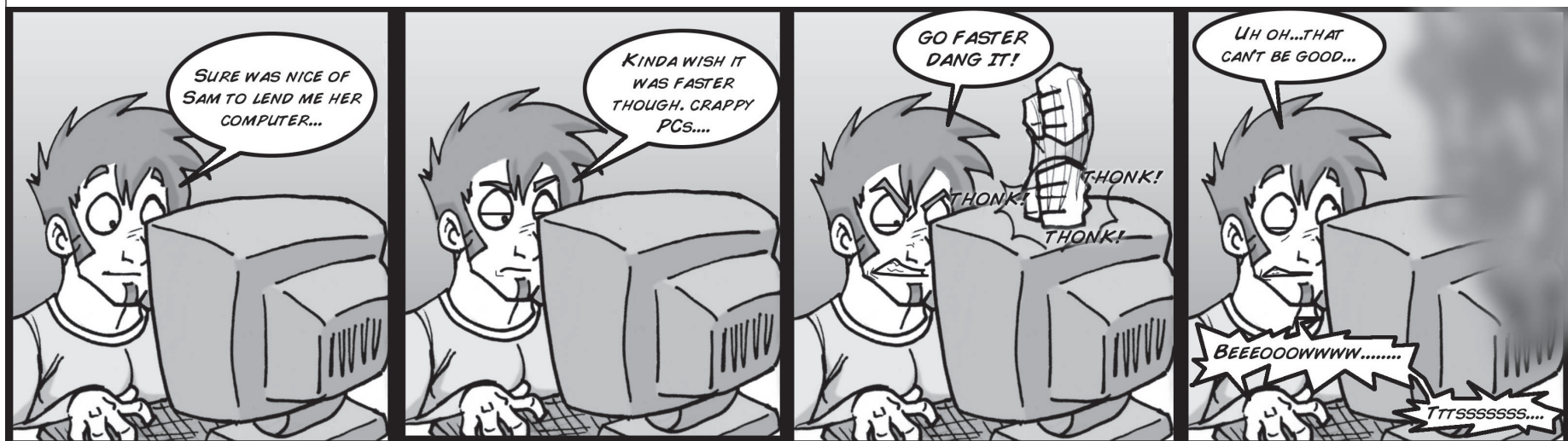
In the early 70s, minority students stood on the steps of the administration building to protest the treatment at Western.

I ask not for a change in security, but that they need a little respect. It is hard to satisfy everyone in such a diverse environment. I pray that young female students will not have to go through this again. It is not respectful for security guards to put their hands on anyone, especially since metal detecting wands were available at the event.

James Glore
Paducah, senior

Annie's

OUTLOOK A cartoon strip by Annie Erskine



BOWLING GREEN

Commissioners feel safe despite Missouri massacre

LAUREL WILSON
Herald reporter

Gunshots rang out at the city council meeting in Kirkwood, Mo. on Feb. 7.

In Bowling Green, the routine of meetings continued as usual.

Still, Bowling Green city officials say they feel safe here.

Such incidents can't be ignored by other cities, Mayor Elaine Walker said.

"I think that it's a very scary situation when you hear about something like this," Walker said. "You have to address the possibility of it happening anywhere."

In Missouri, Charles Thornton went on a rampage, killing two city council members, two police officers and the public works director and critically wounding the mayor, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

The shooting happened less than two weeks after Thornton lost a lawsuit against the city, in which he claimed the council was violating his rights by asking him to leave a meeting where he was being disruptive, the article stated.

Nothing like that shooting has ever happened in Bowling Green, Walker said.

At city commission meetings here, security measures include banning weapons inside City Hall and having at least one police officer present, Walker said.

Metal detectors might be considered if City Hall is renovated in the next few years, although no changes are planned at this time, Walker said.

Walker said her only scare came in a veiled threat, where someone was frustrated with her and mentioned shootings that were taking place in Colorado.

Walker said security doesn't need to be altered.

"I think we just need to be aware of what's going on," Walker said. "In today's world, I think there's always a danger. You just never know what might happen."

Commissioners said they don't feel endangered being public officials and that security upgrades aren't needed.

Commissioner Bruce Wilkerson said he doesn't feel being a commissioner has put him at risk.

"I'm comfortable because we have a nice community and nice chambers and adequate security," Wilkerson said. "It's hard to compare us to a suburb outside of St. Louis."

Commissioner Brian Strow said he doesn't think the shooting will change security in Bowling Green because he doesn't think it's necessary.

He said everyone has the chance of being a shooting victim because there have been shootings in malls and schools.

"I don't think the risk is any higher for public officials than random people," Strow said.

Commissioner Brian "Slim" Nash said he has never felt threatened at a commission meeting and security doesn't need to be upgraded.

"In general, I think everybody needs to be concerned about their safety, but public officials need to be a little more careful," Nash said.

Commissioner Joe Denning couldn't be reached for comment.

WHAT THEY SAID:



Mayor Elaine Walker

"I think we just need to be aware of what's going on. In today's world, I think there's always a danger. You just never know what might happen."



Commissioner Bruce Wilkerson

"I'm comfortable because we have a nice community and nice chambers and adequate security. It's hard to compare us to a suburb outside of St. Louis."



Commissioner Brian Strow

"I don't think the risk is any higher for public officials than random people."



Commissioner Brian "Slim" Nash

"In general, I think everybody needs to be concerned about their safety, but public officials need to be a little more careful."

Reach Laurel Wilson
at news@chherald.com.

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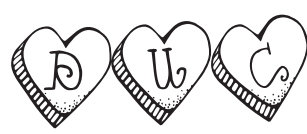
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CAMPUS LIFE



DANIEL HOUGHTON/HERALD

Saundra Ardrey, head of the political science department, talks to students Tuesday night about the upcoming presidential election. Students debated who should get the black vote, and why certain groups tend to vote the way they do.

Forum analyzes choices, patterns of black voters

RYAN FRANKLIN
Herald reporter

Saundra Ardrey stood at the front of a room of young voters on Tuesday evening, wanting to give them a message.

“Young people have a voice, but they don’t use it effectively,” said Ardrey, political science department head and director of African-American studies.

She insisted that students need to vote, and they need to use that vote with their best interest in mind.

But the overlying question of her discussion at the forum was not how can students choose the appropriate candidate, but rather which presidential candidate should get the black vote.

Each and every time, the answer was irresolute.

Instead, the question that was addressed was if there was a black vote to be won.

Listeners answered this question quite emphatically and much more quickly than the first.

“No,” they said.

But the students were proven incorrect.

Evidence shows there is a black vote, and about 90 percent of blacks vote Democrat, Ardrey said.

This was shown in recent state primaries. On Tuesday, in Washington D.C., where

blacks make up 55.4 percent of residents, 75 percent of the Democratic primary vote went to Barack Obama, according to washingtonpost.com.

Students were taught the history behind Democratic Party candidates winning the black vote, which started becoming prevalent in the 1960s with John F. Kennedy. It remained the same when Bill Clinton was elected in 1992.

The focus of the program quickly turned toward the 2008 election, and students got information on some of the remaining candidates from both parties: Democrats Obama and Hillary Clinton, and Republicans Mike Huckabee, John McCain and Ron Paul.

Ricardo Nazario-Colón, director of the Office of Diversity Programs, said both sides of the political spectrum have to be covered.

“We don’t need polarizing conversations,” Nazario-Colón said.

Ardrey showed candidates’ campaign videos, then forced students to vote as if they were voting in each party’s primary election.

For some, it was hard to

vote outside their party affiliation.

“I knew very little about the Republican candidates,” Radcliff freshman Emmanuel Owusu said.

The consensus of students was that the black vote has become monolithic, and that it will almost always go to the Democratic Party. This understanding also required an examination of whether or not that was positive or negative.

If blacks have a monolithic vote, then Democrats will take their vote for granted and Republicans will ignore them, Ardrey said. Republicans need black voters in order to change the stagnant black vote.

The main question of the discussion was never truly answered, but it was analyzed, and students said they were educated on the election process and were shown ways that could help them cast a self-interested vote.

“It was a stimulating discussion. The next nine months are going to be fantastic.”

— Ricardo Nazario-Colón
Director of the Office of Diversity Programs

Reach Ryan Franklin
at diversions@cherald.com.

GRASSROOTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“It’s important to have the message out there,” he said, “because maybe in that crowd of 10,000 people there will be one person who might say, ‘You know what, you can be conservative and not be for perpetual war.’”

Union sophomore Shane Noem, vice president of the College Republicans, said Ron Paul is not in contention because he’s not a “die hard Republican or a die hard conservative.”

“His anti-war message sounds good,” Noem said, “but it’s not doable and it’s not realistic.”

Joe Underwood, a senior from Paso Robles, Calif., said that if one’s comparing “Die Hard” Republicans, Ron Paul would be “the Bruce Willis of Republicans.”

Rand Paul doesn’t attribute local support of his father to his residency here. He hasn’t campaigned much here.

But he did give signs to Underwood.

Underwood helped to organize a Bowling Green Ron Paul meet-up.

It was one of the small groups of grassroots supporters across the country, which char-

acterize Ron Paul’s campaign, that gathered to raise support.

During Homecoming, the meet-up ordered Ron Paul T-shirts and fliers and draped a large Ron Paul banner over parking structure 1.

“You don’t do that for something you don’t care about,” Rand Paul said.

Rand Paul said his father instilled his political beliefs in his children by example.

“We were brought up to think about ideas and think about what’s right or wrong and not just accept what you’re told,” Rand Paul said.

All of the Pauls had to earn their spending money, just like Ron Paul had to growing up around the time of the Great Depression, Rand Paul said.

Rand Paul said he tries to do the same for his kids, but it’s harder now.

Adult competition edges them out from mowing lawns, but they still have to help around the house.

To make money, they can referee local sports.

Rand Paul moved to Bowling Green after he married his wife, Kelley, who was born in Russellville.

Rand Paul said he enjoys Kentucky for the most part.

“Everyone’s been friendly but the state legislature,” he said, in reference to the state and local income tax in Kentucky,

which is not found in his native Texas.

Rand Paul seemed reluctant at times to talk publicly about life as Ron Paul’s child.

Ron Paul, too, rarely delves into his family life in speeches like other candidates, such as Mitt Romney or Barack Obama.

Ron Paul isn’t concerned with image; he doesn’t have speech writers, Rand Paul said.

Rand Paul showed a similar focus on the message.

Like a wrestler, Rand Paul could man-handle a question about having children and suplex it into an answer about high birth rates among poor people causing persistent poverty.

Joy Leblanc, Rand Paul’s younger sister, could grab a question about Ron Paul’s parenting and pile drive it into an answer about his voting record.

Rand Paul is the only one of his four siblings to live outside of Texas.

Leblanc said that all of the Paul siblings campaign for their dad when they can, but Rand seems to have a special gift.

“Rand, he just gets it,” she said.

Reach Greg Capillo
at news@cherald.com.

NEWS BRIEFS

Art Guild sale to benefit former student

Today in the fine arts center, the art department demonstrates the spirit of Valentine’s Day in a display of love toward a former fellow student.

The Art Guild will sell artwork, baked goods and hand-made Valentine’s Day cards on the second floor of FAC. The sale is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All proceeds from the sale will benefit a former student and her family, whose house was destroyed by a tornado in Tennessee.

Art students and faculty made the artwork and baked goods that will be sold.

Sponsors of the sale will also be collecting donations of canned goods, blankets, clothing and toiletries for the family.

Michael Nichols is an asso-

ciate art professor and the sponsor of the Art Guild.

“We’re just pulling together to help a friend out,” Nichols said.

— Eileen Ryan

SGA votes to support cigarette tax increase

The Student Government Association passed and introduced legislation dealing with higher education at its Tuesday meeting.

A resolution to advocate an increased cigarette tax to aid higher education passed as well as a resolution to condemn higher education budget cuts.

SGA will lobby for the cigarette tax in Frankfort on Feb. 20.

A resolution to support the Kentucky Educational

Excellence Scholarship Program by condemning possible budget cuts was introduced.

A resolution to support a survey designed to find student opinion of smoking on campus was also introduced.

The survey will be used to shape SGA’s stance on campus smoking.

Chief of Staff Skylar Jordan mentioned the Diversity Enhancement Committee’s discussion of professors using Facebook.

Professors can use it to solidify relationships with students, Jordan said.

But there hasn’t been any further discussion and recommendations to create a Facebook account haven’t been made to faculty members, said Richard Miller, Diversity Enhancement Committee chair.

— Marianne Hale

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CAMPUS LIFE

Black History speaker focuses on shaping society



Vanderbilt University philosophy professor Lucius Outlaw Jr. speaks to students about Black History Month on Wednesday. “There is something going on in this country that has never happened before,” Outlaw said, “We must learn not to be fearful of people we think are different from us.”

ERIC ISBELL
Herald reporter

In front of a group of avid listeners and thinkers in the Mass Media and Technology Hall auditorium, a soft-spoken philosopher lectured last night on the importance of courage.

This notion of courage isn’t what’s classically defined as courage, but it was geared more toward how society and culture will be shaped by a few who can make a difference in the face of diversity.

Lucius Outlaw Jr., Vanderbilt University philosophy professor, presented his lecture “On Courage: On Democratic Pluralism,” which concerned the nature of something going on in this country, something that’s never happened in its history: a black man with a chance for the presidency.

Outlaw spoke about politics, their historical significance and interracial political theory. He presented the audience with a view of Southern culture that was similar to the writings of Howard Zinn. This view was that there were cultural norms that were fashioned dealing with the social identity of the people.

“Nobody is born with an identity,” he said. “We get our identities from people who structure it for us.”

Outlaw, whose research is centered on social and political philosophy, spoke of the Black History Month series.

Outlaw pointed out that students today will have in their lifetime a far more diverse population than the founding fathers of America had thought.

He spoke about how the current young adults were living in a history that hasn’t been lived before.

“There is no pre-ordained future for this country,” he said. “It will be made as we make it.”

Bowling Green freshman Kenan Dobbins thought that Outlaw’s talk would make a difference among the students in attendance.

“It was good and pretty interesting,” he remarked.

Dobbins said he’d like to make a difference. He just hopes that he can.

Outlaw responded that he felt welcome at Western, and that the students here are responsive.

“It’s not the number that matters, it’s those that chose to come that matters,” Outlaw said.

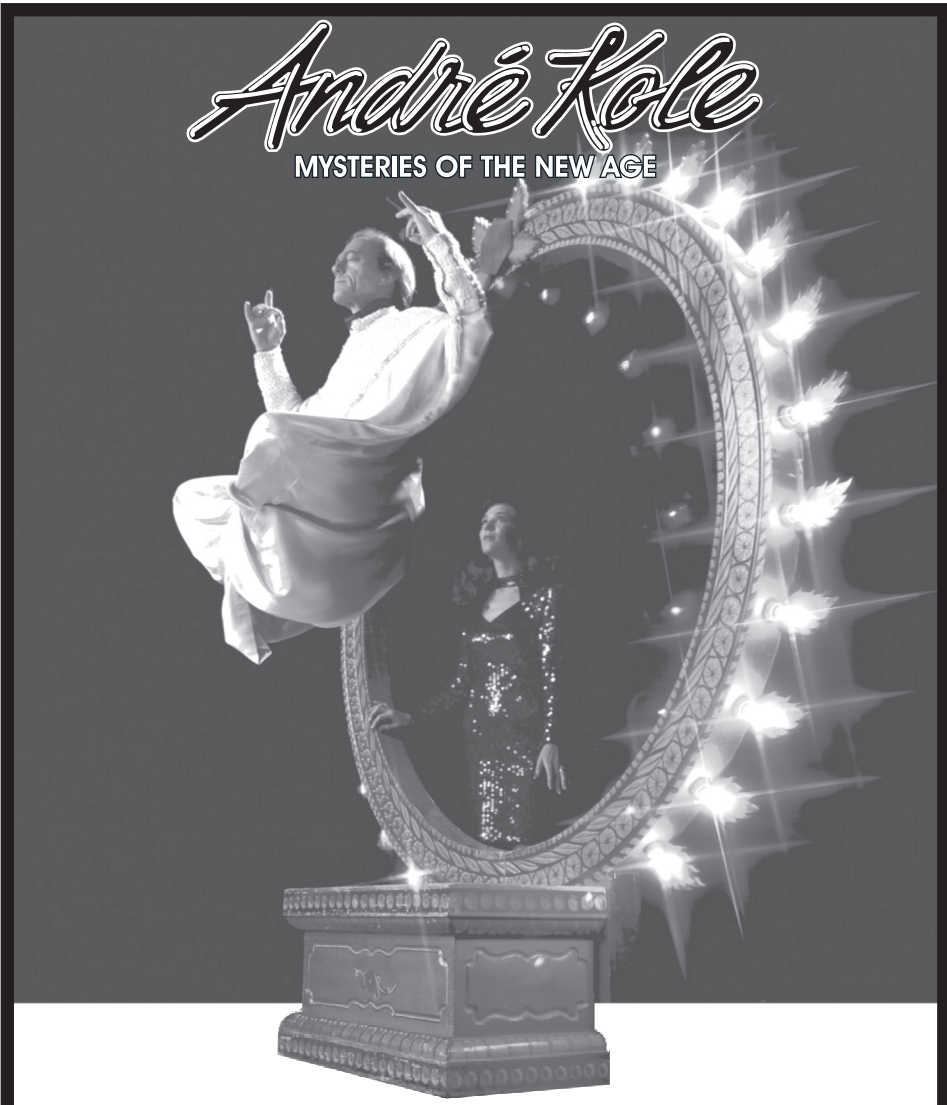
Creston Lynch, assistant director of the Office of Diversity Programs, was excited about having a speaker like Outlaw. Lynch said he the office has been pleased with the events this year.

“It’s not the number that matters, it’s those that chose to come that matters.”

— Lucius Outlaw, Jr.
Vanderbilt University philosophy professor

Reach Eric Isbell
at diversions@chherald.com.

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STEP UP 2
THE STREETS (PG-13)
12:40, 2:45, 5:25, 7:40, 9:55

STRANGE WILDERNESS (R)
12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35, 9:45

THE EYE (PG-13)
12:35, 3:05, 5:30, 7:50, 10:00

MEET THE SPARTANS (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50

CLOVERFIELD (PG-13)
7:00, 9:00

THERE WILL BE BLOOD (R)
12:00, 3:10, 6:20, 9:30

BUCKET LIST (PG-13)
12:15, 2:55, 5:15, 7:20, 9:40

JUNO (PG-13)
12:05, 2:15, 4:50, 7:05, 9:10

WATER HORSE (PG)
12:20, 2:35, 4:55

ATONEMENT (R)
4:45, 7:15, 10:00

I AM LEGEND (PG-13)
12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 9:30

OVER HER DEAD BODY (PG-13)
12:10, 2:20

Bowling Green 12
323 Great Escape Drive
2/08/08 - 2/13/08

RAMBO (R)
12:30, 2:40, 4:40, 7:05, 9:05

UNTRACEABLE (R)
12:55, 3:10, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50

DEFINITELY, MAYBE (PG-13)
12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:25

NATIONAL TREASURE BOOK OF SECRETS (PG)
12:00, 3:00, 6:30, 9:10

FOOL'S GOLD (PG-13)
12:20, 2:45, 5:05, 7:35, 10:00

27 DRESSES (PG-13)
12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

JUMPER (PG-13)
12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00

ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)
10:5, 3:15, 5:15, 7:20, 9:20

WELCOME HOME ROSCOE JENKINS (PG-13)
12:05, 2:15, 4:40, 7:00, 9:35

SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES (PG)
12:05, 12:50, 2:05, 2:55, 4:05, 4:55, 6:35, 7:45, 8:45, 9:55

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Academics honored



DANIEL HOUGHTON/HERALD

Athletics Director Wood Selig shakes hands with freshman forward Ben Backstrom during Wednesday night's men's basketball game against Troy. The men's soccer team was recognized Wednesday night for having the highest grade point averages of all the men's athletic teams. Athletes with a 3.0 GPA or higher were recognized. Selig announced on Feb. 1 the team was being cut.

BLEND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Sophomore pitcher and 2007 Sun Belt Conference freshman of the year Bart Carter said he's excited to see what Western's bullpen has to offer.

After seeing a lot of action as a freshmen, as well as fellow pitcher Matt Ridings, Carter said the Toppers have an all new bullpen that looks promising, and last season's experience should prove to be helpful.

"Last year, getting thrown into the gauntlet so early on the weekends, it was hard to do," Carter said. "And this year, I don't think there's gonna be a lot of surprises for us."

Finwood said the difference from last season to this season's team is that most of the players are returning. Unlike last season when Western had an all new team.

Some of the returning players include senior outfielder Scott Kaskie and sophomore infielder Wade Gaynor.

Gaynor leads all returning players with a .323 batting average, Kaskie (.319) is third, and leads the team in home runs with five.

There have also been a few additions to the Topper family.

Pitching coach Matt Myers brings his experience to the team, as do five players who have transferred to play for Western.

The team did suffer a few losses they will need to account for.

Troy Frazier, who led the team last year in batting averages with .327, transferred to Kentucky, and Casey Hamilton, who tied for second on the team with a .323 batting average, completed his eligibility.

Senior infielder Terrence

Dayleg received preseason honors, being named to the preseason all-Sun Belt Conference team.

"I'm more worried about helping the team out rather than living up to the expectation of being preseason selection," Dayleg said. "I think the team is going to be real good and I plan on living up to that expectation as a leader rather than for the stats."

Finwood believes the biggest thing is the amazing schedule the Toppers have been able to put together.

Western's home schedule features the likes of Kentucky, Louisville, Vanderbilt, Purdue and Evansville.

Finwood is hoping for good crowds.

"You know it's the old saying 'everyone loves a winner'," he said. "So the more we win, the better (the crowds will be)."

Reach Ryan Carey
at sports@chherald.com.

ROUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

All of them describe Troy's difficulty in scoring. The Trojans finished 20-60 from the field, good for 33 percent on the night.

Instead of any cliché, Troy coach Don Maestri used a simple metaphor.

"We were like the weather outside: cold," Maestri said.

Western on the other hand finished 37-75 from the field, including a 13-30 effort from three-point range.

"I wouldn't say it was easy," Brazelton said. "I mean, we just did a great job of defending them. We actually knocked down a lot of shots and took them out of what they wanted to do early."

Horn said he felt like the most impressive stat of the night was the Toppers' 23 assists.

"Great unselfishness, great patience, great maturity playing against their zone," he said. "Even though they play zone and don't press and force a lot of turnovers with trapping and rotating like we do on occasion, they're still top two or three in our league

in forced turnovers. And so for us to only have nine turnovers and share the ball the way we did, I think is a very good sign."

Brazelton and junior guard Orlando Mendez-Valdez combined for 11 assists.

"I think they're big, but I think our other wings are big too," Horn said. "Because of the way we played a zone offense against their zone I think its important for our other wings to do a good job as well, but it always starts with our point guards, and they played extremely well tonight."

With the win, this year's senior class became just the second class in the last 50 years to post four consecutive 20-win seasons. The Toppers winning streak now stands at 10 games.

Those hoping to see senior Courtney Lee break Jim McDaniels' all-time scoring record may have had their hopes dashed. Lee finished with just 10 points. He needed to average 21.7 points per game over the next 10 games.

Western plays Middle Tennessee State at 3 p.m. Saturday in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Reach Andrew Robinson
at sports@chherald.com.

TEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

The Lady Toppers meet Hawaii in Las Vegas during the UNLV Eller Media Classic.

"It's fun for us because it's a challenge," junior pitcher Jennifer Kempf said. "I think that's something our team really needs. We need to push ourselves and know that the talent on our team can compete with these top ranked teams."

Western will play its last ranked opponent of the regular season in a three-game series against Sun Belt Conference rival Louisiana-Lafayette on Mar. 25 and 26. The no. 17-ranked team won the Sun Belt two years ago and has been picked to finish second, two places ahead of Western, in the

INTERNAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

"They're just very disciplined," coach Mary Taylor Cowles said. "They're disciplined in their offense. They know how to read the defense, and they understand personnel."

The Lady Topper personnel understands the Trojans as well.

They are 3-0 all-time against Troy and the last time these two teams met on Dec. 22, Kelly tied her career-high with 38 points on her way to becoming the conference's all-time leading scorer.

However, nine three-pointers from the Trojans helped keep the game close in an eventual 80-74 Western victory.

"We didn't win by that much (last time). Our guards did a great job of taking care of the ball and distributing the ball in the post," Kelly said. "We just have to focus on playing good defense, because our offense is going to take care of itself."

Junior forward Dominique Duck said defense has been the focus of much of the team's

conference this year.

These five teams aren't the only difficult games on the schedule this year. The Lady Toppers also take on defending Sun Belt champion Florida Atlantic.

Perry said the team is excited about the upcoming season and the opportunity to play tough opponents.

"We can go out and play our game and play hard," Perry said of the game against Arizona State. "It's a game that no one really expects us to win anyways, and we can go in and hopefully play well and give ourselves a shot at an upset."

The Lady Toppers kick off their season at 6 tonight against Arizona State in the Kajikawa Classic in Tempe, Ariz.

Reach Corey Ogburn
at sports@chherald.com.

preparation between games.

"We worked a lot on our defensive philosophy," Duck said. "Being out in the passing lanes and getting aggressive on defense. I think we used our time wisely and focused on that main thing."

Diddle selected to host NCAA tourney games

The NCAA selected Diddle Arena as a host for the first and second rounds of the 2009 Women's NCAA Tournament.

The tournament will mark the eighth time Western has hosted the tournament, the last time being in 1993.

"When we renovated Diddle Arena (in 2002), one of our goals was to attract basketball championships of this caliber," Athletics Director Wood Selig said. "We're really looking forward to putting our best foot forward and giving women's basketball fans in the region a chance to come out to Diddle Arena and see top-notch, championship basketball."

Reach Chris Acree
at sports@chherald.com.

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Questions & Answers

athletes



with coach CHRIS FINWOOD

RANDALL REARDEN
Herald reporter

Since arriving on the Hill, coach Chris Finwood has been rebuilding the Topper baseball program. In his first two seasons at the helm, he has compiled a 47-60 record, including a 15-15 mark in the Sun Belt Conference last season after winning just five league games in 2006, the biggest two-year turnaround in conference history. Finwood was rewarded with a contract extension through 2011 in August.

Q: Going into your third season, what are your expectations?

A: Our first expectation is to compete for a Sun Belt championship. I mean, that's the goal and I think that this is our first year where that's not an unrealistic goal. With the group of guys we got back, that's what we're shooting for. Having said that, you know that it's a heck of a league.

Q: Only being here for just a while, how do you and your family like Bowling Green?

A: We love Bowling Green. I've got a little girl that's 15, she's a freshman at Bowling Green High School, and a little boy that's 12 over at (Bowling Green Junior High School). We've lived in a handful of different places and from a family standpoint, we like Bowling Green better than all of them.

Q: I liked your blog. So is it to just update the team and their activities weekly?

A: Yeah, exactly, and maybe (I'll) throw some interesting sidebars in there. Funny things happen in baseball. Teams in general in the course of seasons, you know on road trips, places you visit, just little things. So I figured ... although it's going be there to keep our baseball fans updated on

my perspective on things, I want to try to make it fun too and throw in some other things and use my English degree a little bit.

Q: Besides winning baseball games, what do you want to accomplish on and off the field this season?

A: Well, one of the things we've gotten off to a great start accomplishing we had 20, 21, or 22 kids make 3.0s (GPA) or better in the first semester and (they were honored last night) at the basketball game. But our kids doing well in school is very important to me. I want every kid that plays in this program for four years to graduate.

Q: Do your kids play baseball?
A: Our little girl plays softball. She's on the team at Bowling Green and our little boy plays baseball and was on the 11 year-old Bowling Green East state champion team last year. They're very involved.

Q: What's one thing you can't leave the house without in the morning?

A: A cup of coffee. I don't go very many places before noon without a cup of coffee in my hand. I probably drink eight of them a day. So that might be my biggest vice.

Q: You played at Virginia Military Institute. What was it like playing for a military academy?

A: That's a great question. It's a tough school your first year to be at. You have to overcome a lot of obstacles. After that, you know although you wear a uniform there, it's more or less a regular school and you're just a college baseball player. So it's not too much different.

Reach Randall Rearden
at sports@chherald.com.

TENNIS

True success: family has deep roots

SARAH HYMAN
Herald reporter

Since 2003, Western tennis has been a family affair.

Three of coach Jeff True's five children currently play tennis at Western. The oldest, Kyle, graduated in 2005.

"They were all born here, raised here," True said. "They traveled with the team as kids, came to all the matches. Western tennis has just been their life."

Kyle True set the precedent for his siblings when, in 2003, he transferred to Western after stops at Nebraska and Chattanooga. He and Chad True, then a freshman, won 14 matches as doubles partners during Kyle True's senior season.

"It was definitely really great to be able to play doubles with my brother my first year here," Chad True, now a senior, said.

Chad True and his brother Andy, a junior, had a 13-5 record as doubles partners last season.

"I've been really lucky to be able to play with my brothers for most of my career," Chad said. "We grew up around Western tennis, so it just made sense that we would all play here."

Carrie True, a freshman for the Lady Toppers, said her family's strong ties to Western's tennis program played a large role in her decision to play here.

"I didn't really want to go away from home, and I really

liked the idea of playing on the same team as my brothers," she said. "We've always played together, so I think this was the best decision."

Carrie True won her first singles match of the spring season before dropping her last three. The Lady Toppers (0-4) will face Lipscomb at 1 p.m. on Saturday at Total Fitness Connection.

Carrie said being the coach's daughter doesn't make her any different from any other member of the team.

"We think of our dad as our coach, just like all the other players," she said. "He treats us just the same as anybody else."

Chad and Andy are 0-2 in doubles matches together and

hold 2-1 records in singles matches this season for the Toppers, who will meet Austin Peay at 6 p.m. on Saturday at Total Fitness Connection.

Coach True, who has been Western's head tennis coach since 1981, said one of the more rewarding aspects of coaching his children has been their success on the court.

He said each of his children started playing tennis at a young age and enjoyed early success. He has encouraged them to continue to play the sport.

"That's just how tennis is," he said. "Once you get into it and keep having success, it's hard to stop playing."

Reach Sarah Hyman
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TRACK & FIELD

SBC meet at familiar ground for Tops

CHRIS ACREE
Herald reporter

Junior Matt Taitt is Bowling Green born and bred. But when he and his team have competed at the Murphy Center in Murfreesboro, Tenn. this season, they may feel like they never left Bowling Green.

"We feel like we're at home when we go there," Taitt said. "We are so close to a lot of the Middle Tennessee people and we're there pretty much every weekend. It's much more comfortable to go there than it is to go somewhere we don't know."

Western has had numerous opportunities to become familiar with Murfreesboro.

Out of the seven meets the teams have participated in this indoor season, four have been at Middle Tennessee State.

Taitt has had success at the Murphy Center. He's won the weight throw all four times the Toppers have competed there this season, and won all but one shot put event, placing second to teammate sophomore Brian Soverns.

Meets at the Murphy Center have made up the bulk of Western's indoor campaign for the last six seasons, with the team competing in all four events MTSU hosts each season.

MTSU is this year's host of the Sun Belt Conference championships. Coach Erik Jenkins said the team's experi-

ence there will be crucial during the championship meet.

"The familiarity of the actual venue is what I think we have in our favor, hopefully," Jenkins said. "Going into the championship, kids know where the starting lines are, where the stagger lines are, where the relay breaks are, etc. Small things like that could make or break a championship."

Sophomore Terrill McCombs said the team's intimate knowledge of the track will be a huge benefit to the teams.

"I think our team has a big advantage, second only to Middle Tennessee," McCombs said. "We know where to go, we know the 4x400 exchanges. Other teams in conference

will be confused like I was my first year I was there."

The women's team is aiming for their third-straight Sun Belt championship, while the men are hoping to improve upon their third-place finish last season.

"We've been there a lot, so we really don't have any excuses for rolling over in the conference (championship)," sophomore Gavin Smellie said. "We know the track right now, so I think we are going to do well."

The teams head to the culmination of their indoor season on Feb. 23 at the Murphy Center.

Reach Chris Acree
at sports@chherald.com.

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The True family has made its mark on the tennis court for Western. page 11

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► Thursday

Women’s basketball vs. Troy, 7 p.m., Diddle Arena

Softball at Arizona State, 6 p.m.

► Friday

Softball vs. Oregon State at the Kajikawa Classic, 1:45 p.m., Tempe, Ariz.

► Saturday

Men’s basketball at Middle Tennessee State, 3 p.m.

Women’s tennis vs. Lipscomb, 1 p.m.

Men’s tennis vs. Austin Peay, 6 p.m.

Softball vs. Southern Utah at the Kajikawa Classic, 12:30 p.m., Tempe, Arizona

Softball vs. Notre Dame at the Kajikawa Classic, 4:30 p.m., Tempe, Ariz.

► Sunday

Women’s basketball at Middle Tennessee State, 2 p.m.

Softball vs. Texas Tech at the Kajikawa Classic, 11 a.m., Tempe, Ariz.

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SPORTS

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MEN’S BASKETBALL



DANIEL HOUGHTON/HERALD

in ‘rout’ to 20

Tops reach 20-win plateau in blowout of Troy



BRENDAN SULLIVAN/HERALD

(Top) Senior point guard Tyrone Brazelton scored 15 points during last night’s game against Troy. Brazelton led the Toppers with 15 points. (Above) Senior forward Courtney Lee drives to the basket past Troy guards Jerome Odem and O’Darien Bassett in the first half. Lee scored 10 points helping Western cruise past the Trojans 92-57.

ANDREW ROBINSON
Herald reporter

Saturday night, coach Darrin Horn took advantage of a rare night off in the schedule to attend a father-daughter dance with his 7-year-old daughter. Wednesday night, his Toppers took advantage of a poor shooting effort from Troy and a fast start from Western. When it was all said and done, Western won 92-57. “This game ended up like we wanted it to,” Horn said. “In terms of offensively, we were good like we were the last time we played them. But defensively, we were much better than we were before.” Western (20-5, 12-1 Sun Belt Conference East Division) beat Troy 94-90 (10-15, 3-11 SBC West) on Dec. 29. The Toppers were sharp all night long this time around. They had 14 assists in the first half. Five players finished in double figures for Western, led by senior guard Tyrone Brazelton who paced the squad with a team-high 15 points. Senior guard Ty Rogers, senior forward Boris Siakam and sophomore guard A.J. Slaughter capped the contest with 12 points each. “Pretty early we felt good about the game,” Rogers said. As for the Trojans, use whatever bad-shooting cliché you want: couldn’t throw it in the ocean, couldn’t hit the broadside of a barn, couldn’t buy a basket.

SEE ROUT, PAGE 10

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Lady Tops take internal look during long break

CHRIS ACREE
Herald reporter

The Lady Toppers used their longest break in two months to give an evil glare to one of the reasons they lost their last contest: the mirror. “I think (the break) was really good for us to think about that,” senior forward Crystal Kelly said. “It made us focus on us, because it is about us. We beat ourselves sometimes, and I think that’s something we forget.” Western (18-6, 11-1 Sun Belt East Division) will try to get back on the winning path against Troy at 7 tonight in Diddle Arena. The Trojans (10-14, 3-10 SBC East) are currently tied for fourth in the East division. Despite being on the bottom end of the division, the Trojans are one of the better three-point shooting teams in the conference. They lead the Sun Belt in three-point field goal percentage, making .388 percent of their shots behind the arc. Trojan guard Amy Lewis leads the conference in three-pointers made, and averages 2.3 three-point field goals per game.

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SOFTBALL

Schedule will test Western’s toughness

COREY OGBURN
Herald reporter

Though they are just beginning the regular season, the Lady Toppers’ schedule resembles one that they would face in the Women’s College World Series. “It’s an opportunity,” coach Tyra Perry said of the schedule. “Right now, we’re the underdog and we are going in there with nothing to lose.” Western plays five teams currently ranked in the ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25 poll: no. 4 Arizona State, no. 15 Hawaii, no. 17 Louisiana-Lafayette, no. 23 UNLV and no. 25 Oregon State. The Lady Toppers open up their schedule with their highest ranked opponent, Arizona State, who played in last season’s Women’s College World Series. UNLV has played their way into the no. 23 spot in the rankings going 3-1 with one tie in their first five games, including a victory over Arizona State. Western plays Oregon State in the Kajikawa Classic. Oregon State currently has a record of 2-3 and will play the Lady Toppers in the first game of a double-header.

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BASEBALL

A blend of talent and experience opens 2008 season

BYAN CAREY
Herald reporter

With more than five months of preparation for the upcoming season, Western looks to carry some of this offseason’s success into the season. “I feel like we’re right on, if not ahead of schedule,” coach Chris Finwood said. That time off has been

spent setting new standards for Western’s baseball program, Finwood said. “Our guys have broken about every strength record for the baseball program this year,” he said. “We’ve put (in) a concerted effort in the fall.” The offseason improvements haven’t just been in the weight room.

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ALTON STRUPP/HERALD

Junior catcher J.B. Paxson warms up his bat on Feb. 2 during practice. Paxson and the Toppers will be starting their season on Feb. 22 when Bowling Green State comes to visit Nick Denes field.